

Effective: October 1997

**Academic Program: Undergraduate Studies
HONORS PROGRAM: THE UNIVERSITY HONORS COLLEGE**

Approved: October 1997

Reviewed: June 4, 2007

Revised: August 27, 2001, Deans' Council

February 6, 2001, Faculty Senate

Updated: April 9, 2008, minor curricular change

The University Honors College has been created to provide challenging and enriching educational experiences for our most talented and motivated students. Designed to fulfill the University-wide general education requirements, the program is open to all undergraduate students in all majors. It provides honors students with a core of stimulating and demanding courses. These courses are intended to introduce honors students to the intellectual underpinnings of modern culture while developing their ability to think critically, to do independent research, and to write in a style which is both lucid and analytical. The core requirements explore the evolution of the Western intellectual and literary traditions, mathematical theory and applications, and scientific methods in theory and practice.

These requirements include an honors composition course and an advanced writing experience in the form of a senior thesis. The core courses are intended to encourage a commitment to academic pursuits among our best students while providing them with a common intellectual bond. The core is augmented with a variety of honors general education electives from which the student may choose to complete the requirements of the program. The majority of these courses puts emphasis upon research and writing.

Honors courses have limited enrollments. This creates an intimate and stimulating learning environment where students from varied backgrounds and disciplines can develop a sense of intellectual camaraderie. While honors courses involve both depth and breadth of study and stress independent research and writing, the workloads required are manageable. In addition to providing an enriched and integrated general education, the program is meant to prepare and to encourage our finest students to continue their education in graduate and professional schools. Through formal study and informal advisement they are encouraged to realize their intellectual and professional potential.

Academic Requirements

Completion of the program requires that a minimum of 30 hours of honors credits be taken. All honors courses must be passed with grades of B- or better to receive honors credit.

Academic Standards and Graduation Requirements

A progressive minimum grade point average requirement shall govern student retention in the program. Students must achieve a 2.75 cumulative grade point average after taking 15 credits to remain in the program. A student whose cumulative grade point average falls between 2.75 and 3.0 after the completion of 15 credits will be placed on probation and must raise his or her cumulative grade point average to 3.0 by the time 45 credits have been completed to remain in good standing in the program. All University honors students must attain a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 by the time they

Core Requirements

1. The Western Literary Tradition I or II (Honors English 238 or 239).
2. The Western Intellectual Tradition I or II (Honors Social Sciences 201 or 202).
3. An honors laboratory science course with an additional credit hour where students and faculty will meet individually or in a seminar. This hour will provide an opportunity to consider the intellectual and historical context in which core ideas develop and to explore and discuss in greater depth those ideas raised in the lecture and laboratory components. Honors seminars taken with the following laboratory science courses will fulfill the honors laboratory science requirement: BIOL 100/108,